

Experimentation with Language

*READ 7370*

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Overview

The activity that I found most challenging was *Varieties of English*. I found it difficult to translate the commandment because I had known the commandment all my life and to translate it into another form was challenging. That makes me think that literacy we have used all our life is the most difficult for us to change.

I found *Because the Form of Words Matter* the most fun. I like to play with poetry and make it witty. I have a dry sense of humor so this was a way to use language with my humor.

The most engaging activity was *Ruining a Poem*. Having to think of a way to use a drink in the poem along with Appalachian English was fun but a little difficult. Once I got started though the poem began to take form. This activity made me think that the type of language you use in context to the situation makes all the difference in how the piece is depicted.

1. Because the Form of Words Matter

A. Nail polish Remover

This is a liquid in a plastic bottle that takes off nail polish from your finger and toenails. You wet a cotton ball with this liquid and then gently rub your nail until all the polish comes off. Continue this until all your nails are done, using a new cotton ball on each nail. Be sure not to spill any of the nail polish remover on furniture or it will cause damage to the furniture.

B.

Nail Polish Remover

Oh nail polish remover how great you are!

You can make red go far far away

So fuchsia can come back my way!

You make fingers and toes ready to go

But woe unto you tables with a glow

If the cotton ball should overflow

It will leave an ugly spot

That will not soon be forgot

C.

The prose version is much more detailed and ordered. It describes how to take the polish off but not put any more on. Whereas the poem talks about the next step after taking it off. So, in a way the poem explains more about the nail polish remover. I feel the poem is more effective by describing why the nail polish was taken off so that a different color could be put on. The poem also makes a more interesting piece of this reason.

Also, the poem continues by explaining what will happen if the nail polish touches a specific type of furniture whereas the prose just says furniture. This makes the poem easy to relate to with people that have had this happen to them. The reason I know this is because I am one of those people. That is what makes poetry more effective in such that people can relate to it.

2. Language Awareness

If language is a web, I am a fly. At times I am caught in the middle of it not knowing how I got there or how to get out. I admire the beauty of language just as I admire the intricacy of a spider web. But, to use language correctly and effectively, I am not an expert weaver.

3. Ruining a Poem

A.

There she comes walking through the field

Toting all she can from the garden’s yield

Can’t wait to sit a spell

And wipe the sweat with her apron tail

While she drinks a dipper from the water well

B.

As she walks through the field

Carrying all she can from the garden

She hurries to sit down

Wipe the perspiration with a towel

And gets a glass of water

C.

The most effective poem, I think, is the one in the Appalachian English. It paints a better picture with words than the Standard English version because the use of the Appalachian English matches the setting and the character of the poem. The words in the Appalachian poem flows more with descriptive words making it more interesting.

4. Varieties of English

1. Thou shalt not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).

Standard Formal English

2. You should not have sexual relations with another person’s spouse or someone

you are not married to.

Slang

Don’t you even think about sleeping around with someone you’re not married

to.

3. In analyzing the three versions, the Bible version is understandable in today’s society although we don’t use “thou shalt”, but we know to translate it to “you should”. The word commit in the Bible versions means not only the act of adultery but just thinking about it.

I believe the word “adultery” still means the same in this age. We just say it differently, such as sleeping with, fooling around, or making love. Maybe today we feel by changing the wording it doesn’t hold quite the same impact or consequence as the word “adultery”.

The meaning will change for different audiences because the people familiar with the Bible will know any sexual relationship outside of marriage is wrong, whereas people not familiar with the teachings of the Bible will need it described in more detailed current language.